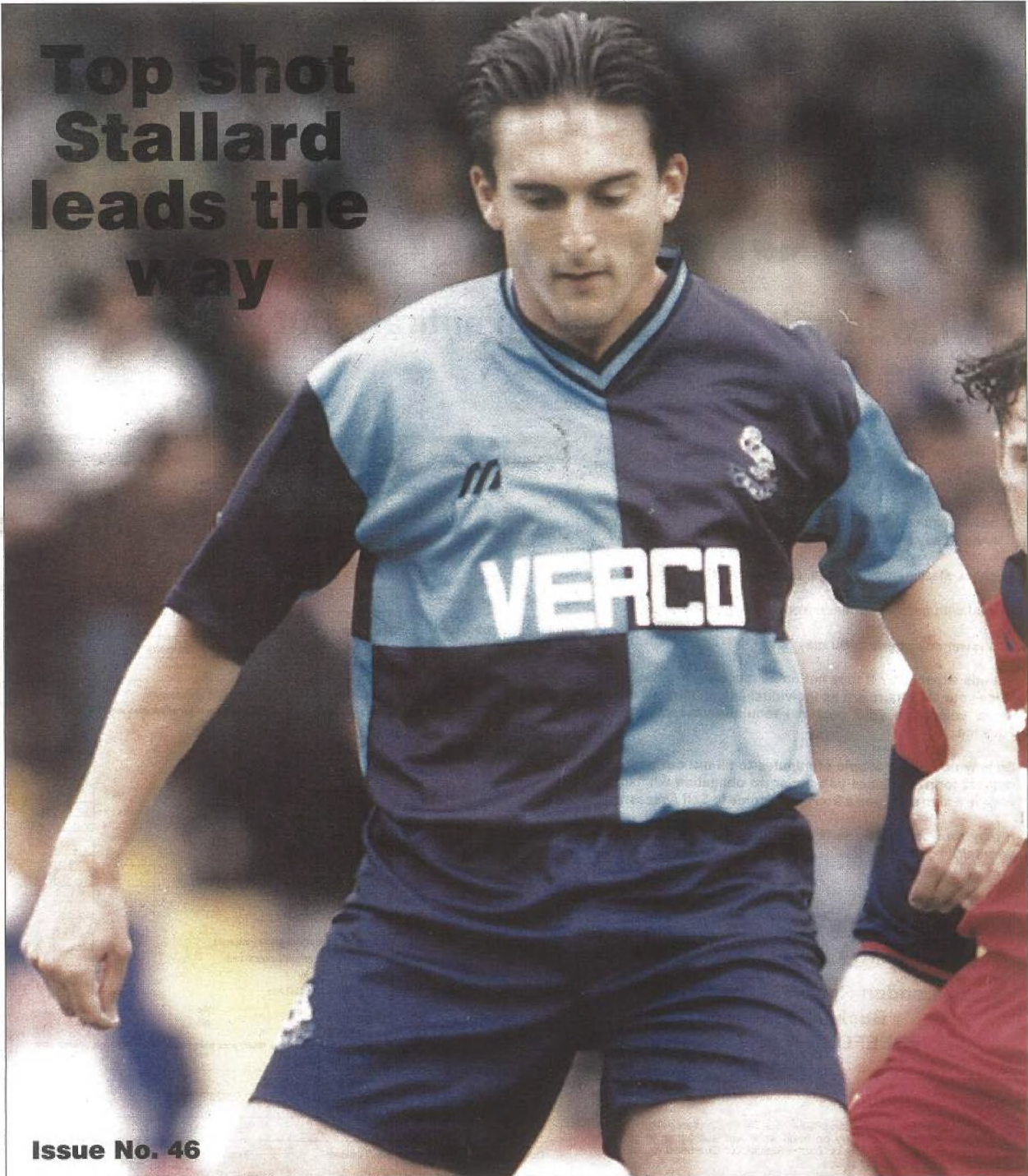




The **BLUES NEWS**

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

**Top shot
Stallard
leads the
way**



Issue No. 46

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THE BLUES NEWS

3

Gregory calls for television to help struggling referees

Bring in TV replays

OVER the last two or three seasons there have been a number of cries from managers, players and some officials for referees to be assisted in making crucial decisions. In my view, having seen the third umpire work so well in cricket, it's time football adopted a similar project.

Our recent reversal at Chesterfield was certainly a game which was affected by one crucial decision, which may not have been made had a second referee been involved.

Martin Taylor was extremely unlucky to be sent off for handling outside his area. Only 17 minutes had elapsed so we had to play Steve Brown between the posts for the remainder of the match, and although he was well protected by our defence, he still had to produce one or two outstanding, if unorthodox saves.

Martin's dismissal, his first ever, becomes even more annoying because I witnessed first hand Andy Collett of Bristol Rovers chopping down Watford's Ronnie Rosenthal for a penalty and only receiving a yellow card barely three weeks ago.

And only last week, three players had their red cards

GREG'S GRAPEVINE
By John Gregory

rescinded and simply changed into yellows. Among those was Dave Beasant, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, who was sent off against Reading when Forest were cruising at 2-0 and Beasant's dismissal resulted in Forest only drawing 3-3. The ref's mistake cost Forest two points.

The time has come for the men in black to have some help from technology. Referees are finding it more and more difficult to keep up with play and are making extraordinary gaffes that are being exposed by television. I think we must assist them to make crucial decisions with the help of a second referee who would sit in front of a TV monitor linked by a communicator to the man in the middle.

● Congratulations must go to Steve and Tracey McGavin who are the proud parents of a baby boy, Scott, weighing in at 7lbs 6oz.

And a big welcome back, this time permanently, to Nicky Mohan, his wife Joanne and children Emmy and Thomas. I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new additions to the Adams Family.



You can't be serious: Gregory discusses the finer points of refereeing

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Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press.

Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sande, High Wycombe. Telephone (0494) 472100. Fax (0494) 527633.

Shop news

WANDERERS' new clubshop catalogue for 1998/99 is now available free from either Wanderers In Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre or the commercial offices at Adams Park.

The current prices at Wanderers In Town, The Cornerflag Clubshop and The Concourse clubshop will be held until December 31, 1997 when the prices printed in the new catalogue come into effect.

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THE BLUES NEWS

Financial director blasts slow replica shirt sales

Keep your shirt on Wanderers

THIS TIME last year John Gregory started a mini-campaign to abandon the dreaded striped blue home shirt.

Momentum gathered at a supporters forum and almost everyone in the room said they would buy a quartered shirt if they returned to Adams Park.

We negotiated with Mizuno and they willingly and generously agreed not to charge us for the 2000 metres of striped cloth in stock. We incurred substantial origination charges and in August the new shirts arrived at Wanderers in Town, a full year early.

There was an initial rush to buy, which has since reduced to a steady flow. Despite all those calls for a change, at the current rate of sale, we will sell only 750 shirts this season. Reading sold 6,000 last year and Leicester over 80,000. Our meagre sales are hurting us badly due to lack of income.

But that is not the only problem. I am sure that more than 750 each of Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal and Newcastle shirts were purchased by the good folk of this town in this same period.

Premier League shirts are fashion items for young people. I even see that at our ground on matchdays. If you are a parent or grandparent please do your bit to help the Wanderers.

LETTER TO A FAN
By Graham Peart

Buy blue quartered shirts for Christmas and not the dreaded red blur.

Another matter, but connected to the first, is the lack of support this season.

The last midweek home game, against Walsall, saw us record a fine win when we scored four goals again. Mark Stallard resumed his title as top scorer in our league. Great news. The problem was only 3,800 turned out to watch this tremendous game. It was particularly disappointing as we had won the previous Saturday beating Bristol Rovers 1-0.

On the same night, neighbours Oxford had over 8,000 for their match and Watford, of the very same Division Two that we frequent, registered over 11,000.

If you care, and I know that you do, spread the word that the Wanderers are playing good football and scoring lots of goals thanks to John Gregory and his team of players.

Adams Park is a fine and safe stadium. Apart from Premier League football what more can you want?

Division One will be beyond us unless your interest is there to watch the valiant efforts of your Blue Army. Keep supporting.



Blues are away on wireless

WYCOMBE radio station elevenSEVENTY is pleased to announce the return of Wanderers away coverage.

The decision was made a month ago by newly-appointed Station Manager Andy Muir.

He said: "Wycombe Wanderers is an integral part of the community as is elevenSEVENTY, the decision to provide Saturday away coverage was made to support this area's greatest sporting institution and offer our listeners a better radio service".

The commentator is Blues' press officer Alan Hutchinson, who is delighted with the decision.

Coverage continues tomorrow when the Blues take on York City at Bootham Crescent, and will continue until the end of the season.

Muir said: "There are always costs associated with broadcasts of this scale - anything from phone lines to licence fees. As a result elevenSEVENTY is offering sponsorship packages on a monthly basis to interested local companies. Already on board are Robertson's Estate Agents in Creden Street, High Wycombe; Hazlemere Food Halls, of The Parade, Hazlemere and Quality Heating Services of High Wycombe.

If you'd like to find out more about away game sponsorship phone the elevenSEVENTY sales department on (01494) 446611.

Muir added: "ElevenSEVENTY will continue to offer our listeners the best radio service available. Wycombe Wanderers away coverage is just the start. We have loads more in store for our listeners - just watch this space".

The management and staff of elevenSEVENTY would like to wish John Gregory and his team the very best for the current season and know you'll support them by listening to the away coverage exclusive to elevenSEVENTY.

Basingstoke at home in the FA Cup keeps Wanderers' commercial team happy

WITH THE First Round of the FA Cup next weekend, the dreams of a really good cup run are either about to be realised or put on hold for another season.

For clubs in the Nationwide Football League Divisions Two and Three the FA Cup is a very important part of their annual income. To get knocked out by a small club in the first round can be quite a financial blow, especially if one loses away from home.

If this is the case, the club will have received no match and ball sponsorship income along with guest hospitality, bar takings, matchday programme sales, club-shop sales, tea bar sales, matchday draw income and most importantly the potential income from the next round.

A home draw means the club can benefit from all the income

COMMERCIAL BREAK
By Mark Austin

stated, plus a share of the gate receipts (each club gets 45 per cent of the net gate receipts with the Football Association receiving ten per cent). Wycombe Wanderers is very fortunate in that it already secured sponsorship for the match and ball of the first round of the FA Cup before the draw was made.

If we had been drawn away, the match and ball sponsorship would have transferred automatically to the replay. However if we had won away the sponsorship transfers to the second round etc.

The Auto Windscreen Shield is a second cup competition exclusively for second and third division Nationwide League clubs,

ending with a final at Wembley.

The first round is on Tuesday, December 9 or Wednesday, December 10. The draw takes place at 9.30am on Thursday, November 20 on Virgin Radio.

There are no replays in this competition, with golden goal extra-time and penalties ensuring there is a result on the night.

Again it is useful income to be drawn at home, but the big financial reward would be another Wembley appearance for the Blues.

All the rounds up to and including the semi-final are regionalised ensuring a North-South final. This unfortunately means we cannot meet Watford, Luton Town, Millwall, Brentford, Millwall or Fulham at Wembley.

While the club has a ball sponsor, it is still looking for a match

sponsor for the first round of the Auto Windscreen Shield. Again, if we win away, the sponsorship transfers to the next round, assuming we are drawn at home.

As match posters need to be printed as early as possible sponsors need to be lined up in advance, particularly in the FA Cup when a replay only gives a club a day or so to sell any unsold sponsorship and six working days to sell advance tickets and promote the match.

As we have never reached the fourth round of the FA Cup it would be nice to do it this season. In the last four seasons we have reached the third round three times, going out 2-0 on each occasion to Norwich (1994); West Ham (1995) and Bradford (1997). As always the first priority is to clear the first hurdle on November 15.

Howe are you old friend?

WANDERERS have been drawn against Basingstoke Town in the first round proper of the FA Cup sponsored by Littlewoods Pools.

The tie, which follows Basingstoke's 5-1 win against Braintree in a qualifying round, will be played at Adams Park on Saturday, November 15 at 3pm.

The match against the Isthmian Premier League side has an added attraction as Basingstoke are managed by Ernie Howe who played alongside Wanderers' boss John Gregory at Queens Park Rangers in 1981.

Tickets are on sale throughout the week at Adams Park, Wanderers In Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre (Monday to Saturday) or on the Credit Card Hotline 01494 441118. Season ticket holders have until 5.15pm today to purchase their tickets. Any unsold season ticket seats will go on general sale from tomorrow onwards. This is not an all ticket fixture. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the match. Normal League prices apply.

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6

THE BLUES NEWS



Keeping it safe: Nicky Mohan in action for the Blues

Beardsley's tough, but Tyson's okay

FULL NAME: Nicholas Mohan
DATE OF BIRTH: October 6, 1970
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 14 stone
HOME: Bicester
CAR: Vauxhall Frontera
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: Two
DAD'S JOB: Unemployed
BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Two sisters
FAMILY PETS: Dog
NICKNAME AT CLUB: None, yet

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD: To be a pro footballer.
WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW: Keep playing football for as long as possible.
WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO: Alan Hansen.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE: The birth of my children.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE: A two-year injury, cruciate ligament.
WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Knowing I had snapped my cruciate.
WHICH PRESENT DAY

FOOTBALLER DO YOU MOST ADMIRE: Gary Lineker.
WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN: Maradona.
WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER: My family.
WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED: Peter Beardsley.
WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER: Bruce Rioch.
WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER: Selling cars.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT: County High Jump champion.
WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Own goals.
WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY: Liverpool.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND: Anfield.
WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY: Golf, pool.
DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR

GAME: No.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN: Mike Tyson.
WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: Children.
DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: No.
IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT: Fighting Mike Tyson for £1m.
WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL: Referees.
WHAT ARE YOUR PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL: Bad drivers.
FAVOURITES
TV PROGRAMME: Only Fools and Horses.
POP STAR/GROUP: Oasis.
FOOD: Bacon Sandwich.
DRINK: Milk.
FILM: Shawshank Redemption.
HOLIDAY RESORT: Tenerife.
TV STARS: David Jason.
COMEDIAN: Roy Chubby Brown.
CITY: London.
SOAP: Coronation Street.
SOAP CHARACTERS: All.
Compiled by Steve Hayes.

THE BLUES NEWS

7

It's give and take



Pitching in: Mark Austin welcomes the Jenkins Newman Partnership



Top man: Mark Stallard is awarded Supporters Player of the Month



Top youth: Martyn Lee receives his trophy

IT'S been another month of giving and receiving down at Adams Park.

Our pictures show some of the presentations which included Wanderers sales and marketing manager Mark Austin welcoming Darren Litchfield, Sharon Healey and Julian Almqvist (top) from

the Jenkins Newman Partnership.

The partnership has just signed a three season deal, which sees them sponsoring the Adams Park pitch.

Our middle picture shows Verco boss Derek Vere presenting Mark Stallard with the Supporters' Player of the

Month award for September, while the player's sponsors Vince's Table look on.

And finally John Walters of the Walters Group, sponsors of the youth team, is seen presenting youth team play Martyn Lee with the Player of the Month trophy for September.

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THE BLUES NEWS

Dave Carroll looks back on ten years of ups and downs

Happy days

I HAVE been at Wycombe Wanderers for nearly ten years and they have finally asked me to put pen to paper!

As most of you will know this is my testimonial year and my testimonial match will take place on Wednesday, November 12, against my former manager Martin O'Neill's Leicester City.

I will tell you more about that later.

Over the past ten years there have been many ups and downs, but thankfully mostly ups and we have enjoyed many successes during that time.

Who could forget the FA Trophy semi-final at Wrexham which took us to Wembley, the second leg at Sutton where after trailing 3-2 from the first leg we won 4-0 in what was one of the best team performances in which I played, the demolition of Runcorn which ensured promotion to the Football League, the two victories in the London five-a-side and finally promotion from Division Three to Division Two at the first attempt by beating Preston 4-2 at Wembley.

In this period I feel that I have made a contribution to the success of the club and have enjoyed a good rapport with the supporters.

My style of play may not have been everyone's cup of tea, but I would like to think

the supporters could not fault my efforts in this time and I sincerely hope I have provided some entertainment along the way.

Back to the testimonial match. This will be Martin O'Neill's first official visit back to Adams Park as a manager and his team will include former Wycombe player Steve Guppy.

The Wycombe Wanderers team for the evening will include some of the all time fans' favourites: Paul Hyde, Terry Evans, Glyn Creaser, Matt Crossley, Stuart Cash, Keith Scott, Steve Thompson, Kim Casey, Jason Cousins, Simon Stapleton, Simon Garner, Gary Patterson, Stuart Cash, Andy Kerr, Terry Howard and last, but by no means least, probably the favourite of them all, Mark West.

As most of these players and Martin left during the close season, I hope that the supporters will come along not only to support me but to show their appreciation of the entertainment and success that the manager and players brought to the club over the last ten years.

Finally, from myself, my wife Debbie and our children, we would like to thank you for your support over the last ten years and we look forward to seeing you for a memorable evening on November 12.



On the ball: Dave Carroll will play his testimonial on November 12

Come and support a great player and good bloke

NEXT Wednesday (November 12) we all have a chance to pay tribute to one of the legendary figures of Wanderers' recent history when Dave Carroll stages his testimonial match against Leicester City at Adams Park (ko 7.45 pm).

I hope there will be a big turn out for what promises to be a marvellous night which is bound to stir happy memories for everyone.

Dave has invited a host of former Wycombe stars to play for his team and I'm looking forward to seeing the likes of Glyn Creaser, Terry Evans, Matt Crossley, Steve Thompson and Mark West donning the famous blue quarters once again.

For their part, Leicester City have promised to include Steve Guppy and of course it will be the first official return to Adams Park for Martin O'Neill, John Robertson, Steve Walford and Paul Franklin, who all played such important roles in Wycombe's recent glory days.

But the main reason I hope that you will turn up on Wednesday night is Dave Carroll.

Testimonials could have been

ALAN PARRY sings the praises of Blues' longest serving player

invented for players like Dave - they are meant to reward loyalty, commitment and honest decency and he qualifies in every department.

Dave has been there from the beginning of the club's meteoric rise from non-league to Second Division.

From part time to big time, his attitude has always been the same. Dave gives 100 per cent no matter who the opponents are or how important the game is.

As you can tell, I have a very high regard for Dave Carroll and I will be doing my bit to help raise funds on the night by staging a celebrity five-a-side challenge.

You can do your bit, simply by turning up and persuading as many friends as possible to join you.

It is no coincidence that Dave's return to form has seen an improvement in results in recent weeks. His ability to control the ball, beat opponents and pass with

accuracy is a very important part of our game. Dave makes us look a better team.

We all have our favourite memories of Dave's contribution down the years but number one on my list will always be that staggering goal he scored against Preston North End at Wembley.

I can still picture that mazy, weaving run which left opponents bemused before he rounded it off by firing the ball home. Ricky Villa (Spurs v Man City, FA Cup Final 1981) had nothing on that goal.

Throughout his successful career, Dave has remained the same modest, likeable bloke and I'm sure he'll be embarrassed by all the adulation that will come his way on Wednesday night.

He's never been one of the big earners at this football club so he deserves every penny he makes on the night and throughout the remainder of his testimonial season. Please do your best to support him.

● Have you ever dreamed of setting foot on the hallowed turf at Adams Park? Has it always been your ambition to pull on those famous blue quarters?

Well, here's your chance to make your wishes come true. When Leicester City visit Wycombe for Dave Carroll's testimonial match on Wednesday, November 12 you can be part of the action.

Director Alan Parry is putting together his own dream team - Parry's Playmates - to play a supporters team in a special five-a-side match before the main event.

Parry's Playmates will include the Adams Park backroom team of manager John Gregory, assistant Richard Hill and youth team boss Neil Smillie.

You can win a chance to play against them and make a contribution to Dave Carroll's testimonial fund by entering a simple draw.

We are auctioning off the places in the supporters' team to the highest bidders.

Please write to: Alan Parry, c/o Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ quoting how much you'd be prepared to pay (£100 minimum) for this once-in-a-lifetime chance to play at Adams Park.

Remember, all proceeds raised will go to Dave Carroll's fund.

IN SHORT

Hornets all-ticket

THE club has agreed to requests from the Thames Valley Police to make Wycombe Wanderers' Division Two Boxing Day match against local rivals Watford all-ticket.

They will also be bringing the kick-off time forward from 3pm to 1.30pm.

Watford have been allocated 1,967 tickets which are on sale from Vicarage Road.

Blues fans wanting tickets must purchase them before Christmas Eve.

Season ticket holders simply need to turn up at Adams Park on the day with their season ticket booklet. Tickets for Blues fans only, are now on sale from the Commercial Offices, Wanderers in Town and on the Creditcard Hotline (01494) 441118 and are being sold on a first come, first served basis.

Keep vouchers

The club is urging all supporters who collected both the blue and yellow FA Cup vouchers given out last month to retain them for a possible future FA Cup fixtures.

The warning came after Wycombe were drawn against Basingstoke Town in the first round of the FA Cup at Adams Park on Saturday, November 15.

Season Ticket holders will automatically be given the right to buy two FA Cup tickets if the club need to implement the voucher system in the future.

To be guaranteed the right to purchase an FA Cup ticket for a match at Adams Park, fans must present both vouchers on request.

Pop in shop

NEXT time you're at Adams Park why not pay a visit to the Wanderers Concourse Club Shop situated in the concourse area of The New ServisPak Stand.

The stock includes home and away replica kits, leisure wear, Jacquard scarfs and hats.

The shop is open before all home fixtures, at half time and after the final whistle.

Senior action

THE Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, second qualifying round between Wanderers and Milton Keynes takes place at Adams Park on Wednesday, December 3 (ko 7.45 pm).

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £2 concessions.

Youth clash

THE FA Youth Cup between Wycombe Wanderers and Cardiff City at Adams Park takes place on Monday, November 10 (ko 7.30pm).

Tickets for adults are £4 with £2 for concessions.

Stay in touch

FOR all the latest information on Wanderers surf the official website.

The Website number is <http://www.wycombewanderers.co.uk>, or alternatively call Ringing the Blues on (0891) 446855. All calls are 50p per minute.

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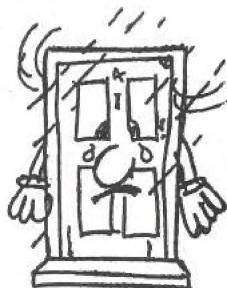
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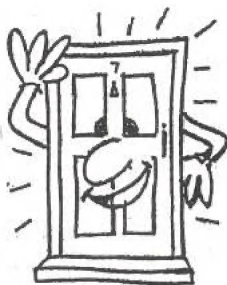
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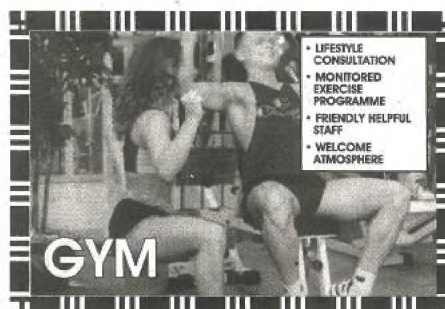
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THE BLUES NEWS

11

Away the lads

By Jason Cousins

I HAVE decided to enlighten you about what happens on a typical overnight trip for an away game.

The decision on whether to travel on Friday is up to the manager, but generally any trip longer than three hours will mean an overnight stop and we generally set off around 10am to miss the motorway traffic.

The squad tends to stick to the same seating arrangements. The coach has excellent facilities and the lads make full use of them, especially the TV, video and CD player.

We arrive at our hotel around mid-afternoon and are free to do as we please until the evening meal which is usually around 7pm. Most of the lads use the hotel gym and swimming pool to get rid of any stiffness from the journey, some go to bed, others use the snooker or pool table and three or four of us will have a game of cards.

If moaning ever becomes an Olympic event Paul McCarthy will be favourite for the gold medal as he never stops whinging about the cards he is dealt.

After a shower it is down to dinner. The menu generally contains foods with a high carbohydrate content – pasta, rice and potatoes. All the players make sure they eat plenty of these foods. That is everyone except Dave 'Sweet tooth' Carroll who will start with a jam doughnut, order a main course of chocolate eclairs and for dessert profiteroles and a coffee with eight sugars.

After dinner we're free to do as we chose but we must be back in our rooms for 10pm. The next day we meet in reception at 10am for a light 45 minute training session.



Two on one: Jason Cousins in action

Our pre-match meal is served around midday and is our own choice. This ranges from pasta, beans on toast, omelette or chicken and baked potato. We

then return to our rooms and watch Grandstand before meeting at 1.15pm for the journey to the ground – and hopefully three points.

Could you mark top scorer Mark Stallard?

MARK Stallard, the leading scorer in Division Two, is unmarked (away shirt) in Wycombe Wanderers' Mark Your man sponsorship scheme.

The package includes: A presentation by Mark Stallard of his away shirt at the end of the season, signed and framed, sponsors name in the matchday programme, Blues News and on the PA prior to fixtures at Adams Park, involvement in the Verco Office Furniture player of the month award if your player is chosen by the supporters, Two £14 seat for the final game of the final game of the season and a 10"x8" framed photograph of the presentation.

If you would like to mark Stallard for £200 + VAT ring Tim Arnold on 01494 472100. There are

number of other players currently unmarked as outlined below. John Gregory, H & A James, Harry & Victoria; Richard Hill H & A Francis Glaston Solomon Brothers in Ltd 0171 721 3881; Neil Smilie H & A The Blues Supporters Club 01494 563697; Dave Jones available; Martin Taylor George & Matthew MacKenzie H, Coach No. 1 A, The Blues Supporters Club, Brian Parkin available; Nicky Mohan, Phil Turner H, Richard Vere A; Paul McCarthy H & A Denzil, Margaret & Andrew Ashcroft; Michael Forsyth, Bucks Auto Components H, away available; Jason Kavanagh, Bill & Sheila at The Doreall Arms 01494 56760 H, A available; Jason Cousins, The Royal Oak, Great Kingshill Tel: 01494 711199 H, Christine Bye A; Steve Brown, Paul &

Alan Gillett H, Ann Cohen & Co. Solicitors Tel: 01494 677420 A; Dave Carroll, Elaine Blake H, Alan & Kathy Hutchinson A; Keith Ryan Link Precision Services 01944 347082 H & A; John Cornforth, Quality Heating Services Ltd 01494 536488 H & A; Michael Simpson available; Steve McGavin, Sharon Healey H, Selina Parris A; Mark Stallard, Vince's Table H, available A; Paul Read H & A Graphic Arts Supplies Ltd; Aaron Patton available; Alan Beeton H Sharon & Gary Trimby, A available; Mo Martin H Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club, A available; Lewis Craker, Frances Carvell H; Gary Wright, Ben Hodgson all available; Keith Scott, Catherine Worboys H, Alan, Michael & Richard A.

Wall to wall footie in busy November

By Alan Hutchinson

NOVEMBER is going to be a busy month for everyone at the club. We have six league fixtures, the first round FA Cup tie, Dave Carroll's Testimonial and an FA Youth Cup match.

Add to that Capital League fixtures and you have 11 matches in 30 days, averaging almost three a week.

By the time these notes appear in Blues News we will already have played Luton and Plymouth.

Last season the Hatters looked certain for promotion until the evening when we went to Kenilworth Road and battled for a point.

Plymouth have had their capacity cut at Home Park. The safety people have deemed certain areas of the ground unsafe and consequently dropped the figure to 4,000.

Argyle are having a bad time on the pitch as well and had only won once up to the end of November.

After going to the bottom of the country to face Plymouth last Tuesday we head for the top and York City tomorrow.

The Minstermen have not changed things around at all during the season but have made a steady start.

Bootham Crescent seems to be a ground where our luck is thin on the ground, either with missed chances or officials not giving us too much. One 0-0 draw from four visits, which includes one FA Cup tie in 1986, is the best we have managed so far.

After that we shall turn our attention to the first round of the FA Youth Cup when Cardiff City come to Adams Park on Monday 10th, kick-off 7.30pm.

That will be followed by Dave Carroll testimonial on Wednesday 12th against Leicester City, kick-off 7.45pm. The return of so many old friends, including Martin O'Neill, John

Robertson, Steve Walford, Paul Franklin and Steve Guppy at Leicester, along with most of Dave's former colleagues from our days in the GM Vauxhall Conference promises to make it a really good evening.

On Saturday 15th we open our campaign in the FA Cup, against Isthmian Premier Division Basingstoke at Adams Park (ko 3pm). We have never reached the fourth round before and hopefully that can change this time.

Next come Wrexham on Tuesday 18th. They will not be looking forward to Adams Park as it is not a happy ground for them. In three visits they have lost twice and drawn once. Last season's encounter was the first game in charge for John Gregory and it was the only time they managed to go away with a point. It is unusual to see them below half way.

On Saturday 22nd we travel to Ashton Gate to face Bristol City. A run of very mixed results has left the natives restless in that part of Bristol. Having spent close on £1 million the supporters feel City should be up there with Watford, although they have a game in hand and could still challenge for the title. The transfer of Mickey Bell was not a happy one for Wycombe who had a total drubbing there last season, this could be a thriller.

The last game for November is at Adams Park on Saturday 29th when Bournemouth arrive. Despite all their financial problems of last season they have recorded some very good results, particularly away from home. We are still waiting to beat AFC at Adams Park, what a nice end to the month three points would make.

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1998 NEIGHBOURHOOD DIARY

Published on 2nd January

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The current prices at Wanderers In Town, The Cornerflag Club Shop and The Concourse Club Shop will be held until Wednesday 31st December 1997. The prices printed below and in the new 1998/99 Club Shop Catalogue which was released earlier this month will come into effect from Tuesday 1st January 1998.

1. Any Mizuno Replica Shirt

Kids - 20", 24", 28", 32"

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Adults - Sm, Me, La, XL, XXL

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Boys (Sizes 12/2)

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Youth (Sizes 3/5)

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£7.50

4. Kids Replica Kit Deal

(Shirt, shorts & socks)

All sizes from 3 years old to 12 years old

£39.97

5. Adults Replica Kit Deal

(Shirt, shorts & socks)

£54.97

Available from Wanderers In Town, The Octagon Shopping Centre, High Wycombe, Bucks
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